JustResearch

Research and Statistics Division

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Welcome

Welcome to the second edition of *JustResearch*. We have survived the growing pains of the first issue, and believe that our provision of policy-relevant literature reviews, reviews of research projects within Justice and around government, as well as information on upcoming conferences and web sites of interest is even better.

We extend our thanks to our readers, particularly those who took the time to fill out our Client Survey or send us comments by other means. The feedback we received was overwhelmingly positive, with a 25% survey response rate. All respondents felt that the reviews were informative and easy to read, and would like to receive future issues of *JustResearch*. All respondents felt that *JustResearch* was either somewhat or very relevant to their work (53% and 47% respectively), and 93% of respondents considered *JustResearch* to be good or very good.

Overall, we received very encouraging comments and constructive suggestions. Readers found the contents of *JustResearch* to be very informative and interesting. We are striving to address your suggestions, such as including articles of interest to clients outside the Policy Sector, and letting you know where you can find the articles and research featured in each issue.

In this Issue

This issue of *JustResearch* contains articles on hate crime, a unique aboriginal justice program, prostitution, child-related issues such as abuse and children who witness domestic violence, and the costs of crime.

- "This is How We Did It": One Canadian First Nation Community's Efforts to Achieve Aboriginal Justice. WARHAFT, PALYS AND BOYCE
- Pathways into Prostitution Among Female Jail Detainees and Their Implications for Mental Health Services. MCCLANAHAN, MCLELLAND, ABRAM AND TEPLIN
- Evaluations of the Effects of Sweden's Spanking Ban on Physical Child abuse Rates: A Literature Review. LARZELERE AND JOHNSON
- Children's Witnessing of Adult Domestic Violence. EDLESON
- The Aggregate Burden of Crime. ANDERSON
- Psychological Sequelae of Hate-Crime Victimization among Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual Adults. HEREK, GILLIS AND COGAN
- Methodological orthodoxy or eclecticims? The case of youth violence. GABOR

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We appreciate your comments, and would welcome any ideas you might have for future issues. Please feel free to complete our Client Survey on our Intranet Site at http://dojnet/rsd_e/Products/justresearch.htm, or contact us at rsd.drs@justice.gc.ca.

Upcoming Conferences

Canadian Law and Society Association Conference. June 1-4, 2000. Lake Louise, Alberta. Themes include courts, judges and juries; crime and criminality; gender and family law; jurisprudence; and the economics of dispute resolution. For more information: knafla@ucalgary.ca.

Victimization of Children & Youth: An International Conference. June 25-28, 2000. Durham, NH, USA. For more information: maverill@hopper.unh.edu or http://www.unh.edu/frl.

British Society of Criminology Conference 2000. Crimes of the Future: The Future(s) of Criminology. July 5-7, 2000. Leicester, UK. For more information: BCS2000@le.ac.uk.

Connexions

Statistics Canada: The Daily. (http://www.statcan.ca/Daily/English/today/daily.htm)

The Social Sciences and Humanitites Research Council of Canada. "HRC is Canada's federal funding agency for university-based research and graduate training in the social sciences and humanities. Created as an independent body by Parliament in 1977, it reports to Parliament through the Minister of Industry." (http://www.sshrc.ca)

C.D. Howe Institute. The C.D. Howe Institute claims it "has earned a reputation as Canada's most respected independent, nonprofit economic and social policy research institution." Their website includes a publications listing, publications, press releases, and links to other policy-related sites. (http://www.cdhowe.org)

The Institute for Public Policy Research (IPPR). This Institute, based in the United Kingdom, tries to "promote and contribute to a greater understanding of key political, social and economic questions." Their website is divided along three themes: citizenship & governance; economics, business, environment & transport; and social policy. (http://www.ippr.org.uk)

ACHIEVING ABORIGINAL JUSTICE

Warhaft, E. B., Palys, T., & Boyce, W. 1999. "This is How We Did It": One Canadian First Nation Community's Efforts to Achieve Aboriginal Justice. *Australian and New Zealand Journal of Criminology, 32(2)*, 168-181.

This article describes an Aboriginal restorative justice program, focussed on family violence, that was implemented by the Canim Lake Band in British Columbia. The Band decided to confront the issue of sexual abuse after a study revealed that up to 80% of their community had been sexually abused at some point in their lives. Mainstream approaches had proved ineffective in enhancing community health and reducing abuse.

The Family Violence Program's (FVP) mandate is to "create a safe place for our children". It is a seven-phase program that involves both traditional healing practices and contemporary clinical practices to treat sexual offenders and victims. A unique and controversial element of the program is the 'deferred reporting period', a two-week period during which offenders are given the opportunity to come forward and self-disclose. A polygraph test is also used in this process. Those who come forward are not prosecuted, provided they meet certain criteria such as: agreeing to participate in the program, completing an assessment of risk, and fulfilling all conditions of the program. Offenders who choose not to come forward during this time forfeit the opportunity of community management and treatment and face possible court action. While this is a controversial element of the program, the community was involved in its development and a majority (87%) were in favour of it. The authors emphasized the fact that it is a process-oriented story of community ownership, community development and community/government relationship building.

The program relies on cooperation with and the support of the highest levels of government including Judges, Crown prosecutors, and the RCMP. Without their approval, the Band felt the program would not succeed.

Aboriginals still rely heavily on government for funding of such programs. This community was able to find funding by showing potential funders why it would be in their interest to support such a program. Indian and Northern Affairs as well as Health Canada agreed to help out; however, the Department of Justice declined the invitation. The Department's Aboriginal Justice Directorate (AJD) did not consider the program to be a 'justice' program so it did not fall into any of the Department's funding parameters.

The first group of participants included 24 victims and 8 offenders (2 of which were there under court-order). The magnitude of the problem of widespread sexual abuse soon became evident: 7 offenders admitted to having abused 277 victims, while 17 victims disclosed abuse by 122 different offenders; all in a community of only 526 people.

Reactions to the Program

The program generated different reactions. The RCMP and the AJD saw numerous problems including the fact that self-referred offenders were allowed to stop participating in the program at any time. It was also pointed out that the sexual abusers frequently attempt to deceive to deceive authorities and frequently display denial mechanisms.
In contrast, Probation services emphasized the value of the victim's side of the FVP and its potential effect on offenders. They argued that if offenders see victims pursuing counseling, getting an education, improving their lives, experiencing success, and becoming assertive, offenders will be less likely to see victims as vulnerable individuals. This will result in less victimization in the future. Has the program reduced crime and recidivism rates? It is too early to tell. However, many of the victims who have gone through the program have experienced healing.

The authors argue that it is dangerous to adopt any single model of Aboriginal justice for all Aboriginal communities. Communities are diverse; what works for one may not work for another. It is worth noting that no law or policy had to be altered in any way in order to run this program. In this sense, Canim Lake's story shows that "justice" for Aboriginals is still possible, but only if it is defined on their own terms.

PATHWAYS INTO PROSTITUTION

McClanahan, S.F., McClelland, G.M., Abram, K.M., Teplin, L.A. 1999. Pathways into Prostitution Among Female Jail Detainees and Their Implications for Mental Health Services. *Psychiatric Services, 50(12),* 52-54.

This study, part of a special section on mentally ill offenders in the journal *Psychiatric Services,* examines the service needs of female prostitutes entering the Cook County Department of Corrections in Chicago between 1991and 1993. The study examines three traditional pathways into prostitution: childhood sexual victimization, running away and drug use as well as their interrelationship. Each of these potential pathways suggests markedly different prevention and treatment strategies.

The authors note that in the United States in 1992, prostitution arrests ranked tenth in the number of arrests of all adult females. Prostitutes frequently suffer from a variety of mental health problems such as depression, anxiety, sexual victimization by customers and sexually transmitted diseases. Traditionally, female prostitutes have had difficulty leaving the trade.

Research results on the precursors of female prostitution have been inconclusive. One of the most popular hypotheses, that childhood sexual victimization of young women leads to behaviour which includes prostitution, has yielded mixed findings. Some researchers have argued that it is not sexual victimization *per se* that predicts entry into prostitution, but rather the consequent running away from home and the lack of economic alternatives. A third popular hypothesis suggests that the route of entry into prostitution may involve drug abuse. Drug abuse often leaves girls emotionally vulnerable and economically motivated to become involved in prostitution. Research on the paths into prostitution is limited. Most samples are small or do not have ideal control groups, or rarely examine the interrelationship among different variables. To address this need for information the authors undertook the following study.

Female detainees (n=1142) entering the Cook County Department of Corrections were recruited and interviewed in the jails intake area to examine the effects of childhood sexual victimization, running away, and drug use on entry into prostitution as well as the interrelationship of these factors over the life course. Using a structured interview protocol and carefully defining variables such as involvement in prostitution, sexual victimization, running away and drug abuse, the authors examined the various statistical relationships of the three independent variables: childhood sexual abuse; running away; and drug abuse; with the dependent variable of prostitution.

Two distinct pathways into prostitution were identified in this research. Running away had a dramatic effect on entry into prostitution in early adolescence (before the age of 15), but little effect later in the life course. Childhood sexual victimization, by contrast, nearly doubled the odds of entry into prostitution throughout the lives of women. Although the prevalence of drug use was significantly higher among prostitutes than among non-prostitutes, drug abuse alone did not explain entry into prostitution. Drug abuse was found to follow the onset of prostitution rather than to precede it.

From their findings the authors suggest measures that mental health services could develop to reduce the entry of young women into prostitution. Early recovery of children who run away is necessary. Services which address children's basic survival needs by providing a stable emotional and environmental support system are needed. Victims of childhood sexual abuse need mental health services to help them come to terms with their victimization and restore a sense of mastery and control over their lives. Programs which prevent and treat drug abuse would be helpful. Finally, to extricate themselves from prostitution women need outreach services to gain their trust and confidence.

The findings from this study, although not entirely novel, are timely in Canada as most major cities continue to grapple with the problems associated with prostitution. A Federal-Provincial-Territorial working group reviewing and developing strategies to respond to the problems of youth prostitution and street prostitution has recently noted that services for

prostitutes are badly fragmented in most cities in Canada and require a much more integrated response.

BANNING CORPORAL PUNISHMENT

Larzelere, R.E., & Johnson, B. 1999. Evaluations of the Effects of Sweden's Spanking Ban on Physical Child abuse Rates: A Literature Review. *Psychological Reports, 85*, 381-392.

The use of corporal punishment has become a controversial issue around the world. Several countries have recently passed legislation making the use of corporal punishment illegal. Central to the issue of whether such legislation is necessary is empirical research upon the effects of physical punishment on children and families.

The critical question is whether banning corporal punishment leads to lower rates of child physical abuse. This position is adopted by advocates of a statutory ban, such as Murray Straus. Robert Larzelere and other take the view that banning the use of physical punishment by parents will have no positive effects (in terms of reducing the incidence of child abuse) and may have adverse effects.

In this review article, Larzelere and Johnson provide an analysis of the evaluative literature on the effects of Sweden's spanking ban on physical child abuse rates. They address the following two questions:

1) "What evaluations of the Swedish spanking ban have been published?", and
2) "What do those evaluations demonstrate about the effects of the spanking ban in reducing child abuse?".

The authors' review of the literature on evaluations of the effects of Sweden's spanking ban on physical child abuse rates produced only seven relevant journal articles. Larzelere and Johnson provide brief summaries of each of the seven identified articles. They also provide their own interpretations of the various studies' findings. Their conclusions are that "no studies have demonstrated that the spanking ban has succeeded in reducing Swedish rates of child abuse". However, they also concede that "it is disappointing that there has been so little empirical evaluation of the effects of Sweden's spanking ban on physical child abuse". They express the desire for improved evaluations of future spanking laws so that better information about the effects of such laws will be available.

Research on the effects of Sweden's spanking ban on physical child abuse rates is particularly relevant to the Department of Justice Canada in light of the current constitutional challenge to section 43 of the *Canadian Criminal Code*. In consideration of the paucity of evaluative research in the area, it is critical that research on the effects of legislative bans on corporal punishment on rates of physical child abuse continue to be conducted and evaluated.

WITNESSING VIOLENCE

Edleson, J. L. 1999. Children's Witnessing of Adult Domestic Violence. *Journal of Interpersonal Violence, 14(8),* 839-870.

A corollary to the societal recognition of (male) domestic violence is a growing concern with the welfare of children that witness these traumatic events. In this article, Jeffery Edleson reviews the extant literature that examines the short- and long-term developmental problems experienced by children who witness domestic violence. The author's goal is to expand the definition of children's witnessing of domestic violence, inform program design and policy development, and discuss the potential use and misuse of the data.

To be included in Edleson's review, a study had to employ a broad definition of witnessing domestic violence that recognised the various ways children experience domestic violence, ranging from witnessing a homicide or violent event, to experiencing domestic violence first hand, or hearing domestic violence and dealing with its aftermath. Studies also had to differentiate between physical conflict and other marital conflict, and youth that were abused, youth that witnessed domestic violence, and youth that neither witnessed nor experienced violence. Finally, several methodological hurdles had

to be negotiated before a study was reviewed (e.g., a comparison group of non-witnesses, clearly stated sample and measurement procedures, the use of acceptable qualitative methods). A total of thirty-one studies met these criteria.

From the review, Edleson identifies three categories of problems deemed "...statistically associated with a child's witnessing of domestic violence" (1999: 846).

- *Behavioural and Emotional Functioning.* Children who witnessed domestic violence exhibited more externalised and internalised behavioural and emotional problems (e.g., low social competence, anxiety, depression, and trauma symptoms) in comparison to children who did not witness domestic violence.
- *Cognitive Functioning and Attitude.* There were several, largely unsuccessful attempts to measure the relationship between witnessing domestic violence and cognitive development. However, there was some support that increased exposure to domestic violence resulted in low cognitive functioning (e.g., the development of violent attitudes after witnessing domestic violence).
- *Long Term Developmental Issues.* Childhood witnessing of domestic violence produced developmental problems in adulthood, including "low self esteem among women and trauma-related symptoms among men," and violent and criminal behaviour among adults that witnessed domestic violence and experienced physical abuse as a child.

These problems associated with children's witnessing of domestic violence were influenced by the child's association to the violent event (victim, witness, or both victim and witness), gender (males externalised and females internalised their problems) and age (younger witnesses had more behavioural problems). Little evidence emerged as to the differential impact of witnessing domestic violence based on race and ethnicity.

Overall, Edleson cautions that the data only highlights *associations* and not *cause-effect* relations and that equating witnessing domestic violence with maltreatment is erroneous given that many children in the studies exhibited "no negative developmental problems." Further, to improve our understanding of problems stemming from children's witnessing of domestic violence, and to better inform policy and program development, the author encourages more research that employs inclusive definitions of children's exposure to domestic violence, as well as national data on the extent of witnessing domestic violence.

THE AGGREGATE BURDEN OF CRIME

Anderson, D. A. 1999. The Aggregate Burden of Crime. *Journal of Law and Economics, XLII.*

The Justice systems in many developing countries, including Canada, constantly try to better understand the issues concerning the costs of crime to society in social and personal costs as well as in terms of dollars and resources. As part of that learning process the Department of Justice Canada is also very interested in better understanding and describing the potential impact that policy and legislation can have in minimizing those costs.

The article by Anderson is a further contribution to this ongoing debate about identifying and measuring the costs of crime, specifically focusing on the impact of crime on society's resources and identifying more accurately the indirect and unknown costs of criminal activity. His argument is that to measure the real impact of crime in economic terms, a better understanding is needed of the hidden costs of crime which go beyond the known costs of the justice system.

This article, like many before it, acknowledges that there continue to be valid questions about what should, or should not, be included in the cost components of the 'crime burden'. In order to further this debate, Anderson has developed a model which includes the different types of costs that the author would argue are part of the overall indirect costs of crime. By including a detailed listing of the costing items in the model, rather than simply "bottom line" figures, the model is a flexible template into which can be added or deleted the assumed costs and the dollar values accordingly. In support of the model being proposed, the author provides a list of some of the fundamental earlier studies upon which he based part of his work.

The model is comprised of several broad components which, in turn, include itemized lists of the implications and costs of crime. Each of the itemized lists has an assigned dollar value which can be adjusted.

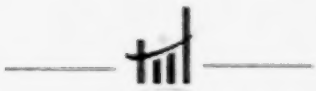
Crime Induced Production: The allocation of resources to products and activities whose specific contribution is in the context of criminal activity, such as personal protection devices and security services. Resources committed to these items take away from other possible societal expenditures.

Opportunity Costs: Increasing incarceration and criminal behaviour results in the loss of potential workers. Society looses the goods and services these individuals may have provided. Also, additional opportunity loss can be calculated in terms of lost workdays and time or money spent replacing and securing assets.

The Value of Risks to Life and Health: There is a considerable literature about the implicit costs of fear, anger, threats to life, etc. However, these can be the most difficult to quantify.

Transfers: Many crimes involve the transfer of assets from victims to criminals which can have an impact on the economy both in terms of the replacement of stolen goods and the purchasing of stolen goods.

This article provides a useful model that will add and contribute to other work being undertaken to better understand and explain the costs of crime beyond the known direct costs of the justice system itself. While the proposed model does not provide a definitive answer on the total cost of crime, its flexibility does provide a template into which identified costs, and their associated dollar values, can be added in or taken out depending on the types of items considered relevant.



HATE CRIME

Herek, G.M., Gillis, J.R. & Cogan, J.C. 1999. Psychological Sequelae of Hate-Crime Victimization among Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual Adults. *Journal of Consulting and Clinical Psychology, 67*, 945-951.

A great deal of research has examined the psychological effects of hate crimes. However, to date, no study has made comparisons between the impact of hate crimes and crimes committed for other motivations.

This study compared psychological distress levels among lesbian, gay, and bisexual victims of hate crimes, victims of other types of crime, and nonvictims. The victimization experiences of 2,259 Sacramento, California area lesbians, gay men, and bisexuals (N=1170 women; 1089 men) were examined. Participants were recruited using five sources: major community events, including the annual Pride celebrations; cafes, clubs, and bars frequented by gay men, lesbians, and bisexuals; community organizations; notices, advertisements, and leaflets distributed throughout the community; and personal networks of study participants. An extensive self-report questionnaire included a number of indicators of psychological functioning.

The results revealed that approximately 20% of the females and 25% of the males had experienced victimization because of their sexual orientation. In addition, homosexuals were more likely than bisexuals to be the victim of a hate crime. Nonbias crimes were more likely to be experienced by females as opposed to males. Consistent with earlier research, hate-motivated crimes were less likely to have been reported to police.

It was also found that recent hate crime victimization (i.e., within the last 5 years) was associated with greater psychological distress than victimization of nonbias crimes. Gay men and lesbians reported significantly more symptoms of depression, traumatic stress, anxiety, and anger than did victims of nonbias crimes, or people who had not been victimized. It was also found that gay and lesbian survivors of hate

crimes were more likely than other respondents to regard the world as unsafe, to view people as malevolent, to exhibit a relatively low sense of personal control, and to attribute their personal setbacks to sexual prejudice.

The results of this study are consistent with other research that has demonstrated that hate-motivated crimes have more serious effects than other personal injury offences committed without the element of hate. These findings provide empirical support for section 718.2(a)(i) of the *Criminal Code*, which requires judges to impose harsher sentences when the offence was motivated by hate or bias. This section entered the *Code* in 1996 as part of the sentencing reform Bill (C-41). The purpose of the provision was to recognize the additional harm, to specific victims and to the community, of crimes motivated by hate.

ON MEASURING YOUTH VIOLENCE—AGAIN!

Gabor, T. 2000. Methodological orthodoxy or eclecticims? The case of youth violence. *Canadian Journal of Criminology, 42*, 77-82.

In the first issue of *JustResearch*, we reported on three recent articles in the *Canadian Journal of Criminology* in which the question of whether the seriousness of youth violence is increasing had given rise to a debate about what can count as evidence in criminological research.

In the first article, Anthony Doob and Jane Sprott had reported that Youth Court Survey data on the most serious types of assault did not support the hypothesis that youth today are committing more of the more serious kinds of violent crime than did youth of a few years ago. Commenting on their article, Thomas Gabor expressed general concern about relying too much on official statistics in debates on youth crime and called for greater use of diverse data sources. In reply, Doob and Sprott agreed with Gabor on the inadequacy of official statistics, on the seriousness of crime, and on the need to take people's concerns about crime into account. They disagreed with him, however, on what seemed to be a suggestion that opinions and perceptions can be regarded as alternative means of ascertaining trends in crime.

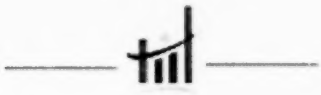
In the most recent issue of the *CJC*, Gabor continues the discussion. He refers to official statistics to argue that youth violence is increasing—though acknowledging that most of the increase is in common assault. He also contends that official measures of crime are less "reliable" for youth than for adults, on the supposition that youth are more likely to be diverted from official proceedings. And, once again, he suggests that impressions, opinions, views, and feelings of front-line practitioners—such as police and teachers—especially when gathered in surveys and indicating a high degree of agreement, may somehow count as evidence of trends in youth crime.

Gabor takes issue with Doob and Sprott for treating public opinion and the opinions of "professionals with first-hand experience" as equivalent and implies that they have dismissed the "value" of the latter. He asks, 'Do the statistics analyzed by academics constitute "hard data" while the *impressions* of front-line professionals lack validity and reliability?' [*emphasis added*]

The answer to this question depends on whether criminologists wish their discipline to be regarded as a science, that is, as a field of rational enquiry, or not. In science, it makes no sense whatsoever to speak of the "validity and reliability" of impressions or hypotheses—no matter whose or how plausible or "justified" they may be. While experts in a field are usually, but not necessarily, in a better position than are others to make interesting conjectures or hypotheses, science is not about credentials, or justification, or even about experience. It is about method—the empirically critical method of searching for error—and it is the strict adherence to this critical method that distinguishes science from any other endeavour.

Gabor is right about the inadequacies of official statistics and of research on crime trends. He is right about the need for more and better data on youth crime. He is also right to maintain that the opinions of professionals are valuable. To the extent that criminology is to be practised as science, however, they are valuable in a very restricted sense—as ideas or hypotheses that may be worth testing. The notion

that impressions and opinions—of anyone, however experienced—about crime trends could be considered as evidence of such trends seems misguided. It is simply anathema to rational enquiry.



IS YOUTH VIOLENCE IN QUEBEC INCREASING?

Le Blanc, M. 1999. L'évolution de la violence chez les adolescents québécois: phènomene et prévention. *Criminologie, 32(1):* 161-194.

Canadians are becoming increasingly concerned about violence, particularly youth violence. This "fear" of crime is real and is causing Canadian society to demand that government take harsh measures to deal with this so-called growing problem. A number of authors and researchers are focusing on this problem and are trying to explain or identify causes of the violence and this so-called general increase in violence and, more particularly, in youth violence. Moreover, in the Department of Justice, there have been a number of initiatives or groups in recent years that have attempted to examine these problems, whether it be initiatives focusing on youth, crime prevention or the family. Marc Le Blanc, a professor at the University of Montreal, proposes an explanation for the phenomenon and its causes, and concludes by examining a number of preventive measures that he believes could alleviate the problem.

At the beginning of the article, the author states that we are currently experiencing a rapid increase in criminal youth violence. However, his contention is that that the focus should be, not on the number of youths committing acts of violence, but on the frequency of the violent acts committed by youths. He attributes the increase in the frequency of acts of violence to the characteristics of the social environment of youths rather than to macrosocial factors. For example, changes in the structure of the family, specific socio-economic conditions, tighter social control, the growing number of friendships and intimate relationships between youths, youth attitudes and perceptions with respect to school, immigration or changes in the modal personality lead the author to state that it is reasonable to conclude that these changes explain the stability of the prevalence of violent behaviour and the increase in its frequency among violent individuals (p. 174).

He therefore proposes, in light of these conclusions, a number of preventive measures that target groups or individuals likely to display violent physical or psychological behaviour of a criminal nature. Viewed as a whole, the initiatives that target groups are very diverse and represent an attempt to find a solution to the social changes discussed above by promoting the integration of new Canadians, a feeling of community among youths, the reduction of violence in schools, the transition between school and the work world, and to understand the influence of marginal gangs. On an individual level, Le Blanc discusses the importance of crime prevention, secondary prevention and tertiary prevention/treatment. However, he states that, at present in Quebec, rarely do preventive measures undergo a thorough evaluation and, in his opinion, this is an area that deserves more attention from the players involved.

CURRENT AND UPCOMING RESEARCH FROM THE RESEARCH & STATISTICS DIVISION

Social Cohesion Workshop
Valerie Howe, Research Officer

As part of a series of PRI-sponsored workshops related to Social Cohesion, Justice Canada is organizing a workshop on Restorative Justice, and hopes to provide insights into the personal, community and social potential of this approach to conflict resolution. The central idea behind restorative justice programs is that many of the issues which we now treat as crimes can be looked at as conflicts. This approach takes the emphasis off the role of the state and asks those in conflict, or those touched by the incident, to express their views as to an appropriate resolution. The objective is to restore relations. This method is not selected unless all

parties decide that it is an appropriate way to deal with the problem.

Four key questions debated by those involved in this work will be addressed: When is this approach most appropriate and when is it inappropriate? When has it been found to really lead to changes in the orientations of those who infringe on the rights of others? What evidence is there that community and social benefits occur? What conditions are necessary for Canadians to accept restorative justice?

David Daubney, Coordinator of Sentencing Reform at Justice, will introduce the session and Danny Graham will address these questions based on his experience with the Nova Scotia Restorative Justice Program and with youth justice initiatives. The workshop will take place on May 4, 1:30-4:30 p.m., in room 6015, East Memorial Building. For more information: Alfred LeBlanc, Policy Research Secretariat, at a.leblanc@prs.srp.gc.ca
Valerie Howe, Justice Canada, at valerie.howe@justice.gc.ca.

Firearm Statistics
Kwing Hung, Senior Statistician

Firearm Statistics is a report updated annually to include the latest statistics related to firearms. Statistical tables provide historical information on administrative aspects (including number of restricted weapons, firearms acquisition certificates, firearm prohibitions, etc.), firearm homicides and robberies, firearm deaths such as suicides and accidents, and hospitalization related to firearms. To obtain the most recent version of *Firearm Statistics*, visit the Canadian Firearms Centre website at: http://www.cfc-ccaf.gc.ca/research/publications/stats/.

Questions and Answers on Youth Crime
Stan Lipinski, Senior Statistician
Kwing Hung, Senior Statistician
Melanie Kowalski, Research Officer

This report includes previously released data from the Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics to illustrate the nature and extent of youth crime, the punishment of young offenders, the prevalence of repeat offending and factors that may affect the incidence of youth crime. The document has been designed in a question and answer format in an attempt to answer many commonly asked questions about youth crime and the youth justice process in Canada. The report is available in French and English on the Justice Canada's Internet site as of March 2000.

Young Offender Recidivism
Naomi Lee, Senior Research Officer

Reports on the first of a two-part analysis of young offender recidivism are now available from the Research and Statistics Division. *Research in Brief: The Likelihood of Recidivism in Youth Court Histories* is a short report available in both official languages. A detailed and somewhat more technical document, *Recidivism in Youth Court Histories, Part 1: The Likelihood and Rates of Recidivism*, is available in English only. The second part of the analysis, which is in progress, focuses on the nature and extent of recidivism.

Although it is generally regarded as a very important topic, there is almost no research-based information on a significant scale on recidivism following youth court dispositions. This statistical study is based on Youth Court Survey data on all individuals born from 1972 to 1975 who had charges adjudicated in the Province of British Columbia. The offences they committed occurred between 1984, when those born in 1972 turned 12, and 1993, when those born in 1975 turned 18. They represent the first four generations within the ambit of the *Young Offenders Act* from their 12th to 18th birthdays.

Canadian Law School Faculty Survey
Anna Paletta, Research Officer
Dan Antonowicz, Research Officer

The Canadian Law School Faculty Survey is a collaborative effort between the Canadian Council of Law Deans (CCLD) and the Department of Justice Canada (DOJ) as part of an initiative to establish closer links between law schools and the DOJ. The Survey asks the faculty members of all 22 law schools across Canada to identify their research interests; their most recent publications in these areas of interest; whether they have acted as a special advisor within the last two years; whether they have acted as an expert witness; and whether they are providing pro bono legal advise. The report of the findings from this survey is forthcoming.

Based on the success of the Canadian Law School Faculty Survey, The Canadian Social Science Faculty Survey, which will begin with schools of criminology, is being planned to extend the links between the DOJ and experts in these fields.

CURRENT AND UPCOMING RESEARCH FROM AROUND GOVERNMENT

Sentence Length & Recidivism
Solicitor General, Corrections Research Branch
Using meta-analysis to review fifty studies (involving over 300,000 inmates) relating to the effect of imprisonment on recidivism, this study asked whether longer sentences actually reduce recidivism rates and deter offenders. The analyses revealed that imprisonment does not reduce recidivism rates; in fact, longer sentences lengths were associated with slightly *increased* rates of recidivism. This was true for both high and low risk offenders. These results show that increasing reliance on imprisonment for deterrence purposes is not supported empirically, that there may be more cost effective ways to decrease reoffending, and that there may be more effective alternatives to incarceration. For more information: http://www.sgc.gc.ca.

Measuring Sex Offender Risk
Solicitor General, Corrections Research Branch
Drawing from previous research on dynamic risk factors for sex offenders, the Sex Offender Need Assessment Rating (SONAR) was developed. Using five stable factors and five acute, or highly changeable factors, the scale was tested using previously collected data on 208 sex offenders who had reoffended and 201 sex offenders who had not. The SONAR scale had a moderate ability to distinguish between reoffenders and non-reoffenders, even after controlling for other indicators of risk (such as IQ, age, and scores on potential for long-term risk). This promising approach to assessing both static and dynamic risk factors could have implications for decisions about treatment of offenders and the reintegration of sex offenders into society. For more information: http://www.sgc.gc.ca.

Youth Violent Crime *Juristat*
Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics

Comparing data from 1988 and 1998, CCJS investigated the scope and characteristics of violent crime by youth. The rate of youth charged with violent crimes dropped by 1.1% in 1998; the third consecutive decrease. However, when looking at the much longer time frame of 10 years, the trend appears to be the opposite. The youth violent crime rate was 77% higher in 1998 than a decade before. This increase is much more exaggerated for girls, with a 127% increase in the rate of female youths charged with violent crimes, as compared to 65% for male youths. Charges of common assault and major assault have largely contributed to the 77% increase in youth violent crime; which comprised two-thirds of charges for girls, and almost half of charges for boys. Youth violent crime rates varied across Canada, which could reflect jurisdictional differences in charging practices. Girls committing violent crimes are younger than boys; the peak age for girls is 14-15 years, while the peak age for boys is 17. In general, youth tend to victimize other youth who are acquaintances. For more information: *Juristat*, Vol. 19 no. 13.

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